

PHO 674 508

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 13 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Coldwater Church of the Brethren

AND/OR COMMON

Church of the Brethren

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

100 block N. High Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greene

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Iowa

__ VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY

Butler

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

__YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Church of the Brethren ✓

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greene

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50636

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Butler County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Allison

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

HABS I

DATE

1968

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historic Preservation, Iowa City, IA

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Church of the Brethren at Greene was built in 1873, two years after the town was platted. The front gable structure is constructed of locally-quarried limestone, with rubble side and rear walls, and front wall of stone laid in regular courses (the courses vary in width). Dimensions are approximately 40' x 60'.

The sanctuary is set upon a high, windowed basement. Side walls are divided into four bays, while the front presents a symmetrical three-bay composition. Window--and the original door--openings have broad, flat stone lintels. Upper floor windows have 4/4 double hung sash, those of the basement 2/2 d.h.s.

Until about 1915, a pair of quarter-turn wooden stairs gave access to the main floor. When the basement was finished, a door was cut into the main facade at ground level, and a new set of stairs installed within. The original doorframe was then fitted with window sash. A semicircular date plaque, originally centered in the front gable end, was moved down to cover the shallow stone arch over the original door lintel.

The upper floor was originally one large room, with wooden trusses forming a clear span. This was later partitioned to create two Sunday School rooms at one end. The basement, originally probably used as the parsonage, is now partitioned into kitchen, restrooms, and storage areas.

The sanctuary was remodelled in 1964. The plaster walls were retained, but the original board ceiling and wooden floors were replaced.

To the east of the church is a frame parsonage, built in 1915. It does not contribute to (nor does it particularly detract from) the significance of the church itself.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Aaron Moss, Greene

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Coldwater Church of the Brethren is a well-kept example of Iowa's 19th century religious folk architecture, its distinctive features being the competent use of local building materials (limestone from a quarry south of Greene), and the raised sanctuary. The basic form of the church is wholly traditional: the simple front gable, with center entrance, and the stonework (rubble sides and rear, more carefully dressed stone front) is comparable to other stone churches and school buildings of mid-19th century Iowa. The raised sanctuary, however, is somewhat uncommon in a church of this age and type in the state: most were simply one room, set at ground level.

Butler County was first settled in the 1850's. Philip Moss, a native of Indiana, organized a local denomination of German Baptists (Brethren) in Coldwater Township in 1855. A town, "Elm Springs", was laid out in the township, but the lack of a railroad served to discourage interest in settlement there. Once the railroad did arrive (the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern) in 1871, the town of Greene was platted and a community soon developed there. The Brethren, who had for many years held services in area schoolhouses, erected the stone church in Greene in 1873. The builder was Aaron Moss, son of the congregation's founder, and a "brick and stone mason by trade" (Hart, p. 90).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Butler and Bremer Counties, Iowa. Springfield, Ill.: Union Publishing Co., 1883, pp. 556, 559, 565, 596, 573.
 Hart, Irving A. History of Butler County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1914, Vol. I, pp. 301-2; Vol. II, pp. 88-90.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Greene, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 115 511561010 47148161310

B

C

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H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 23, Traer's First Addition, Greene, Iowa, except the southwesterly 100 feet thereof.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

May 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian A. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 5/14/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William W. Bovich
 /KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE July 13, 1979

ATTEST: *William H. Brown*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

7.13.79

DATE